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P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kupferschmid et al.

Application No.: 10/055,795

Filed: January 22, 2002

For: SURGICAL, TUBULAR-SHAFTED INSTRUMENT

T.A.  
7-9-02  
#6 Prior Art  
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APR 25 2002  
TECHNICAL ROOM

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 16, 2002

By: Carol Prentice  
Carol Prentice

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references:

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT(S):**

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
Germany	298 03 734	Apr. 23, 1998

The reference listed above was cited by the International Examiner in the Search Report (copy enclosed) of Applicants' counterpart international patent application no. PCT/EP00/06125 (MPEP §2001.06(a)) and by the German Examiner in the counterpart German patent application.

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APR 26 2001  
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

OTHER U.S. PATENT(S) :

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
5,569,256	Vaughn et al.	Oct. 29, 1996
5,741,263	Umber et al.	Apr. 21, 1998

OTHER FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT(S) :

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
Germany	41 03 663	Aug. 20, 1992

The references listed above were cited by the German Examiner in Applicants' counterpart German patent application 199 35 042.6 (MPEP §2001.06(a)).

In addition, Applicant would like to bring German patent DE 198 09 120 to the Examiner's attention, as it is referenced in the present application. Applicant does not submit that the aforementioned German patent comprises prior art, as it was published after Applicant's priority date.

DE 198 09 120 and DE 298 03 734 correspond to International patent WO 99/44517. An English language abstract for WO 99/44517 is enclosed.

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Page 3

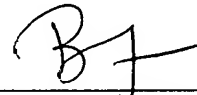
An English language abstract is attached to the enclosed copy of DE 41 03 663.

Copies of the above-listed references are enclosed, together with a completed form PTO-1449.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the subject patent application, and therefore no fee is due.

Consideration of these references by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 16, 2002  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HOE-673

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FORM PTO-1449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

ATTY. DOCKET NO.: HOE-673

SERIAL NO.:  
10/055,795

APPLICANT(S): Kupferschmid et al.

FILING DATE: January 22, 2002

GROUP:

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	5,569,256	Oct. 29, 1996	Vaughn et al.			
	AB	5,741,263	Apr. 21, 1998	Umber et al.		TC 3700 MAIL ROOM	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANS- LATION YES NO
	AC	298 03 734	Apr. 23, 1998	Germany			
	AD	41 03 663	Aug. 20, 1992	Germany			

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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